

## London Road to the Riverside Gardens

In many ways the section of the trail that runs from London to the Riverside Gardens is one of the most varied in its scenery. It starts with the beautiful Alvaston Park and then passes through countryside which one would not associate with a busy city before suddenly reaching the Riverside Gardens.

Unlike the previous sections of the trail which follow the disused Ashby to Derby railway line and Derby Canal, this section skirts through Alvaston Park and then follows the River Derwent into Derby. The red line on the old map shows the route but so much has altered that the map is not representative of the today's Derby. At the time, for example, the Midland Railway was a massive organisation and it is worth noting that the Wyvern shopping centre was built on Chaddesden Sidings.



Acknowledgements to the National Library of Scotland for allowing the use of the map.





Above is the bridge on London Road next to the Wickes DIY store. Immediately after passing under this, Alvaston Park will appear which is probably one of Derby's most beautiful parks.







The trail winds through the park with the lake on its right hand side. Although the trail only skirts the park, it is possible to take a slight diversion and go through the centre of the park.







The trail has a row of pollarded trees and the lake gives a beautiful and peaceful feel to the journey.







The traveller will come to a junction at the end of the Alvaston Park section and here it is necessary to take to the left fork and go under the railway bridge.







This is the main line from Derby to Nottingham and Derby to London so it quite likely that you will see a train. Once passed the bridge, the trail heads for Pride Park.







As can be seen the River Derwent is on the right of the trail and below is the road bridge that connects Pride Park and the Wyvern .







Once the traveller under this road bridge, the path winds on towards the city centre but despite being so close to the city, there is still lots of greenery.







The River Derwent keeps the traveller company and quite suddenly Derby railway station appears.







The trail goes under the old railway bridge which still carries the main line train to the North East and passes the road bridge that carries vehicles into Pride Park.







The traveller is very close to the city centre but once again it is difficult to believe that one is not in a rural area.







The trail passes under one final bridge and immediately in front of the traveller, the Riverside Gardens comes into view.







Once over the steps it is possible to go on passing the Industrial Museum and into Darley Park, but here, our journey ends.

